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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

London Police Seek Third Group of Terrorists - Sabah
London Bomber Claims No Link to al-Qaida - Hurriyet
Iran to Continue Nuclear Program - Vatan
Iraqi Insurgents Attack British Consulate Vehicle - Aksam
7/31
Uzbekistan Asks US to Leave Hanabad Base - Aksam 7/31
Pope Supports IRA Decision - Vatan
Russia Bans ABC-TV for Basayev Interview - Vatan
Russians Pull Out of Georgia - Milliyet
Pakistan Deports All Foreign Theology Students - Milliyet
7/31
Bush's Health 'Perfect' - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

PKK Office in US-Controlled Kirkuk - Yeni Safak
EU Sees Turkish Military as Obstacle to EU Membership -
Cumhuriyet 7/31
London Fears Third Wave of Attacks - Radikal
Washington Times: PKK Casts Shadow on US-Turkey Alliance -
Yeni Safak 7/30
US Companies Return to Libya - Radikal
4,000 Killed in Iraq in 7 Months - Yeni Safak
Suicide Attack in Iraq: 25 Killed - Yeni Safak 7/30
Iraqi Constitution Will be Finished on Time - Zaman
Amnesty Denounces Syria for more Political Arrests - Yeni
Safak 7/30
25 Inmates on Hunger Strike at Gitmo - Yeni Safak 7/30
Anti-Mubarak Demonstration in Cairo - Cumhuriyet
Food Aid Sent to Niger After 8 Months - Radikal

BRIEFING

PKK Opens Office in Kirkuk: The Pro-Kurdish Democratic Solution Party, known to be a political extension of the PKK, has opened a new office in Kirkuk in the neighborhood where the US Consulate is located, Monday papers report. Dailies claim that a PKK flag and a flag symbolizing jailed PKK leader Ocalan's proposal for a democratic confederation of Kurds are flying over the building in which the office is located. Reports further claim that posters of Ocalan have been hung on the walls of the building. An staff of 60 people are believed to be working in the building, which also houses a radio station through which the PKK communicates with its supporters. Dailies report that "Turkmeneli TV," a Turkmen television channel in Kirkuk, claimed that neither US nor Iraqi forces have intervened to prevent the office from functioning. Dailies emphasize that US and Iraqi promises to block PKK activities in northern Iraq have not been kept.

Ankara Extends Customs Union Protocol With EU: On Friday night, Turkey signed a customs protocol with the European Union, a key condition for the opening of EU accession talks with Ankara, the Turkish Foreign Ministry (MFA) said in a statement. The MFA added that Ankara's signing of the accord, which extends an existing customs agreement to the 10 new members of the bloc, does not constitute a formal recognition of Cyprus. 'The signing, ratification and implementation of this protocol in no way means the recognition of the Republic of Cyprus, which is mentioned in the protocol,' the statement said. The ministry's declaration, released simultaneously with the new protocol, stresses that the special relationship between Turkey and the 'TRNC' would continue, and that restrictions on Greek Cypriot vessels and planes seeking to enter Turkish ports and airports would continue. Papers speculate that the ban will be used as a 'trump card' in Turkey's efforts to end

international sanctions against the Turkish Cyprus. Turkish parliamentary approval is required for the protocol to take effect. Weekend reports suggest that the Government is not planning to bring the issue to the parliament until after the talks begin on October 3.

Bartholomew Complains of 'Bad Intentions' Toward Minority Foundations: "Milliyet" reports that Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I accused Ankara of having 'bad intentions' in its relationship with the Patriarchate based on Turkey's alleged efforts to seize assets of the Greek Orthodox Church in Istanbul. Bartholomew was speaking at the opening of a youth camp for disadvantaged children in Istanbul, which had been delayed by the insistence of the Foundations Directorate that the Patriarchate agree to forfeit control of their monastery on Kinaliada when the youth camp finished. 'People would not leave their homes if there were no problems,' he said. 'If we really want to become Europeans, we must change our attitudes, not just make some reforms and pass a few laws that are sometimes implemented and sometimes not,' Bartholomew added. The Patriarch criticized the way Turkish authorities have handled the Patriarchate's institutions and property issues, and the fact that Turkey has refused to reopen Halki Seminary, which has been closed for 34 years. 'The Ecumenical Patriarchate has never intended to create problems for the Turkish state or government. But it demands its rights from the state and does not accept unfair treatment. We are not foreigners in this land,' Bartholomew stressed. Deputy PM Mehmet Ali Sahin rejected any discrimination against minority religious foundations in Turkey. 'The problem is that minority foundations demand privileges greater than the rights granted to Muslim foundations,' Sahin said. 'Turkey's General Directorate for Foundations administers 41,550 foundations, and only 40 or 50 of them belong to the minorities here,' he added. Sahin said that he may initiate legal action against Patriarch Bartholomew. In the meantime, Turkey's Supreme Court of Appeals issued a ruling in favor of the Patriarchate, noting that the Foundations Directorate does not have the right to take over long-term control of the administration of minority foundations.

Kretschmer on Turkish Military's Impact on Politics: European Union (EU) Commission Turkey representative Hansjoerg Kretschmer said at a dinner with businessmen in Turkey's southern city of Adana that the Turkish military is still very influential in Turkish politics, and that this is one of the obstacles to the country's adaptation process to the EU. Kretschmer reportedly said that military-civilian relations are different in EU countries from those in Turkey, and that European practices should be analyzed by the Turkish side.

Shiites, Sunnis Protest Killings, Detentions: Thousands of Sunnis and Shiites marched together after Friday prayers in Baghdad to protest torture and arbitrary detentions by coalition forces, "Yeni Safak" reports. The protesters, who were supported by the Iraq Islam Party, called for an end to killings and torture, the release of suspects under detention, and for an independent commission to investigate killings during security operations. The protest ended peacefully.

Turkey-US Military Exchange Program: The US has offered a new plan of bilateral exchange. 60 military officers would be exchanged between the US and Turkey each year in an effort to create new opportunities and improve military ties, "Sabah" reported on Sunday. The Turkish General Staff (TGS) welcomed the plan, but has not yet given an official response.

Young Turks Pin Hopes to EU: Young Turks see their future hopes linked to the EU, according to a poll of high school students. The poll showed that the students believe that unemployment will fall and education standards will rise with Turkish membership in the EU. The poll was conducted among 4,542 students in 60 high schools in 12 major Turkish cities. 66.9 percent of the students believe that EU membership will yield positive results for Turkey, and only 18.6 disagreed. 71.6 percent said EU membership will reduce inefficiencies in state services in Turkey. 60.4 percent expect an erosion in ethical values if Turkey joins the EU, and 65.5 expect drug addiction to rise. 18.6 percent said Turkey should join the Islamic world instead of other international groupings.

Turkish Truck Driver Missing in Iraq: A Turkish truck driver, Mehmet Konac, has been missing in Iraq for 25 days, papers report. Konac's wife believes her husband was kidnapped. Konac was ferrying goods to US forces in Iraq.

EDITORIAL OPINION: The Global War on Terrorism

"An Historical Duty" Washington-based Yasemin Congar wrote in the mainstream "Milliyet" (8/1): "Turkey's identity is a composition of

Muslim, democratic, secular, and Western elements. This fact makes Turkey unique in the region, from Iran to Greece. Moreover, it may bring us a valuable advantage. . It may seem like a paradox, but Turkey's Muslim identity provides a chance as well as a heavy responsibility to stand against the Islamist nature of global terrorism and anti-Muslim sentiment in the EU. Turkey will only be able to take advantage of this opportunity by emphasizing its identity even more than before, and by developing firm position against the Islamist terror and the ideology it represents. The western, democratic, Muslim and secular characters of Turkey should be combined with a creative message to both Western and Islamic nations. This is an historical duty that stems from Turkey's identity. Carrying out this mission will also help the West, particularly the EU, to understand and appreciate Turkey. This will require a change in the current political reflexes. It will require that we denounce Islamist terror by naming it for what it is, stop looking for excuses for Al-Qaida terror, and stop taking offense at the depiction of Turkey as a 'moderate Muslim' country. If one day Turkey becomes a full member of the EU, it will not happen not in spite of our identity, but precisely because the EU appreciates the value of our identity."

"The Transatlantic Failure"

Kamuran Ozbir wrote in the nationalist "Ortadogu" (8/1): "The current picture looks like a conspiracy against Turkey in the fight against terrorism. The US is refusing to deal with the 5,000 armed Kurdish PKK militants in northern Iraq. As if this were not bad enough, the US has also started to see increased PKK attacks in Turkey. The European Union, on the other hand, is providing credible evidence to justify Turkey's prejudice about Western countries' unwillingness to take in a Muslim nation. Developments are heading in a negative direction, and neither EU nor the US seems capable of coping with the problems. . The US strategists seem enjoy acting in a vengeful way by not taking any action against PKK movements along the Turkish-Iraqi border. This is probably a retaliation for Turkey's refusal to pass the March 1 decree before the Iraq war. But the US should also consider the possible consequences of such retaliation. Washington will not be happy to see Turkey turn to partners outside of NATO, such as Russia and Iran."

MCELDOWNEY